

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 12059 201345Z
ACTION SS-25

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R 201146Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7452
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T CAIRO 12059

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS; 3&, JO
SUBJ: SADAT/HUSSEIN MEETING

REF (A) AMMAN 4026, (B) CAIRO 11716,

1. APART FROM GENERAL COMMENT THAT MEETING BETWEEN SADAT AND HUSSEIN WENT WELL AND BOTH PARTIES "IN SUBSTANTIAL AGREEMENT", EGYPTIANS HAVE BEEN RELUCTANT SAY MUCH ABOUT MEETING. SADAT DID INDICATE TO ME THAT HE HAD AGAIN PRESSED HIS POINT ON THE NEED FOR SOME FORMALLY AND OFFICIALLY DECLARED LINKAGE BETWEEN JORDAN AND PLO-DOMINATED PALESTINIAN WEST BANK/ GAZA STATE, BUT HE WAS VAGUE ON HUSSEIN'S REACTION. HE SIMPLY COMMENTED THAT HUSSEIN IS IN GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH THE IDEA. HE DID EXPRESS SOME IMPATIENCE THAT HUSSEIN APPEARS TO BE RELUCTANT TO CONTINUE TALKS WITH PLO WHICH MIGHT WORK OUT FORMULA, BUT HE ACKNOWLEDGED HUSSEIN MUST PROCEED CAREFULLY.

2. IN MEETING WITH FAHMY TODAY, LATTER DISMISSED THE MEETING AS UNIMPORTANT. HUSSEIN, IN FAHMY'S VIEW, REMAINS A PERIPHERAL ACTOR IN THE ARAB/ISRAELI EQUATION. HE NOTED SADAT'S EFFORTS

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TO DEVELOP SOME LINK BETWEEN PLO AND JORAN CONTINUE, BUT ASSERTED PLO LEADERSHIP CONTINUES DISTRUST HUSSEIN JUST AS MUCH AS THE OPPOSITE IS THE CASE.

3. FAHMY DID INDICATE THAT HUSSEIN HAD TRIED TO PUT A DAMPER ON SADAT'S OPTIMISM VIS-A-VIS ME PEACE PROCESS. THIS, IN FAHMY'S PERSONAL VIEW, WAS HELPFUL SINCE HE TOO IS FEARFUL

THAT SADAT IS COUNTING TOO MUCH ON USG TO WORK THINKGS OUT. HUSSEIN HAD SPOKEN AT LENGTH ABOUT HIS SUSPICION THAT THE NEW ISRAELI GOVT IS PREPARING FOR SOME PREEMPTIVE STRIKE AGAINST THE ARABS, EITHER IN SYRIA, SOUTH LEBANON OR EVEN JORDAN, IN ORDER TO DISRUPT THE PEACE PROCESS. HUSSEIN, ACCORDING TO FAHMY, SEEMED TO BE OBSESSED WITH THIS IDEA. HE HAD URGED THAT IT IS IN ARAB INTEREST TO STEP UP THEIR DEFENSE PREPARATIONS FOR SUCH A CONTINGENCY.

4. FAHMY EXPRESSED SOME SURPRISE THAT "YOUR FRIEND" SHOULD BE SO TAKEN WITH THIS NOTION. FAHMY HIMSELF SUSPECTS ISRAELI INTENTIONS VIS-A-VIS SOUTH LEBANON AND NOTED GOE IS WATCHING CAREFULLY THE SIGNALS THAT ARE COMING OUT OF TEL AVIV. HE TENDS TO BELIEVE THAT IF THE ISRAELIS ARE PRESSED ON NEED TO MOVE AHEAD ON PEACE PROCESS, THEY MAY REACT THROUGH SOME MILITARY VENTURE. IN THIS REGARD, HE IS ESPECIALLY DISTRUSTFUL OF WEIZMAN.

5. WORTH NOTING THAT JORDANIAN AMB HINDAWI ALSO PEDDLING LOCALLY LINE OF LIKELY ISRAELI PREEMPTIVE ATTACK.
EILTS

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NNN

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